



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

July 20, 2007

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-066-AFS

Mr. Vaughan D. Marable, District Ranger
Wenatchee River Ranger District
600 Sherbourne
Leavenworth, WA 98826

Dear Mr. Marable:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the **Natapoc Ridge Restoration Project** (CEQ No. 20070249), on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests in Washington. We are submitting comments in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The selected alternative in the ROD is Alternative C (modified). This alternative will treat approximately 4,185 acres using a combination of treatments including commercial and non-commercial thinning, regeneration harvest, partial overstory removal, ladder and surface fuel reduction, and prescribed burning. Approximately 17.7 million board feet will be harvested, and a total of 22.1 miles of road will be constructed, reconstructed or reopened. Other activities include the closure of 8.4 miles of road, and treatment of invasive plants on 35.45 acres.

In our comments on the draft EIS in December 2006, EPA requested additional information on how fine sediment delivery from roads in the upper mainstem Wenatchee River would be mitigated and monitored. The FEIS gives thorough treatment to each of these questions. We also note that the FEIS includes additional road-related sediment analyses (FEIS 3-129), and that as a result, "road management and sediment reduction" was added to the purpose and need for the project. We commend the Forest Service for taking this action. The inclusion of additional road improvements and aquatic resource mitigation measures in the selected alternative will help to address management generated sediment rates, and meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS. Please feel free to contact Teresa Kubo at (503) 326-2859 with questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit